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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: OHKUBO et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 10/822,374  
FILED: April 12, 2004  
FOR: Reproduced Signal Equalizing Method for Optical Information...  
GROUP: 2651  
DOCKET: NEC WNZ-2665

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office form PTO-1449, including copies of the references listed therein. Where available, English language counterparts and/or abstracts are being provided for the Examiner's convenience. These references were cited in the European Search Report dated September 19, 2005 of the underlying European patent application. Enclosed is a copy of the European Search Report. Applicants are not submitting copies of the U.S. Patent reference(s)/U.S. Patent Publication(s) as the Office waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) on July 11, 2003. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This Information Disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the

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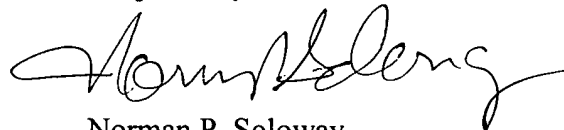
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information thus disclosed in fact constitutes prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 35 U.S.C. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a copy of an official action by a foreign examiner in which the references were cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of the country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the foreign examiner's comments submitted therewith.

The enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted within three months of the European Search Report, as certified in the attached Certification for Information Disclosure Statement. Therefore, we believe there are no fees involved with this Information Disclosure Statement. In the event there are additional fees payable, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

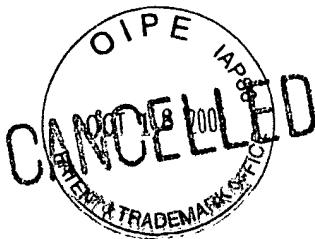
Respectfully submitted,



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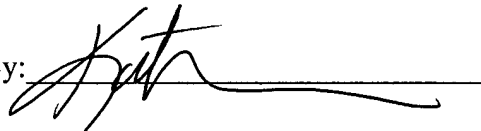
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Serial No. 10/822,374  
Docket No. NEC WNZ-2665  
Information Disclosure Statement

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 18, 2005 at Tucson, Arizona.

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**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e) ACCOMPANYING  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Docket No.  
NEC WNZ-2665

In Re Application Of: **OHKUBO et al.**

Application No.  
10/822,374

Filing Date  
April 12, 2004

Examiner

Customer No.  
27667

Group Art Unit  
2651

Confirmation No.  
2825

Invention: **REPRODUCED SIGNAL EQUALIZING METHOD FOR OPTICAL INFORMATION MEDIA  
AND OPTICAL INFORMATION REPRODUCING/RECORDING APPARATUS**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

This is a statement under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) in the above-identified application.

Check applicable statement herebelow:

Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1)

- ☒ Each item of information contained in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2)

- ☐ No item of information contained in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned person, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

  
Signature

Dated: October 18, 2005

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**Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail**

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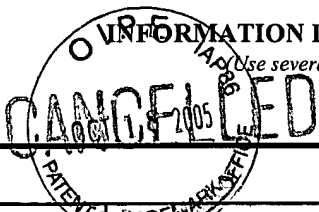
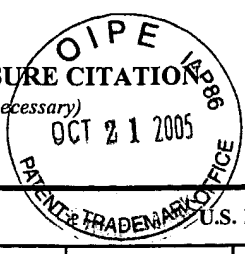
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Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

Kathryn Grimes

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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div>				Docket Number (Optional) <b>NEC WNZ-2665</b>		Application Number <b>10/822,374</b>		
				Applicant(s) <b>OHKUBO et al.</b>				
				Filing Date <b>April 12, 2004</b>		Group Art Unit <b>2651</b>		
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>								
*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
		6,449,110	9.10.02	DeGROAT et al.	360	46		
		6,198,587	3.6.01	HAYASHI	360	65		
<b>U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS</b>								
*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
		2002/0154434	10.24.02	SATOH et al.	360	65		
		2002/0012185	1.31.02	SAWAGUCHI et al.	360	46		
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>								
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
		WO 00/22620	4.20.00	PCT	G11B	20/10	YES	NO
		1 160 784	12.5.01	EPO	G11B	20/10		
		09-259543	3.10.97	JAPAN (w/abstract)	G11B	20/14		
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS</b> <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>								
		"A New Method to Evaluate Signal Quality for Systems to which PRML is Applied", Nagai et al., Optical Memory and Optical Data Storage Topical Meeting, 2002, pgs. 365-367						
		"Optimization of Write Strategy in a PRML System for High Density Recording", Ohkubo et al., Optical Memory and Optical Data Storage Topical Meeting, 2002, pgs. 425-427						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED				
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.								